



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Northeastern Area
State & Private
Forestry

180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3410 (NA-08-04)

Date: August 28, 2008

Subject: 2008 Aerial Sketchmapping Survey

To: Leanne M. Marten, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest

On July 10, 2008, Dan Snider and Rick Turcotte of this office along with Lauren Miles and Mike Antalosky, conducted an aerial sketchmapping survey of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). The accompanying map shows the general locations and types of damage observed during these flights.

This year, we mapped a total of 51,711 acres (365 polygons) of visible damage within the proclamation boundary of the Allegheny National Forest. Ground truthing surveys revealed that a number of different agents and defoliators were active on a variety of hardwoods (American beech, chestnut oak, white oak, maples, sycamore, and black locust). The most commonly reported agents were beech bark disease and leaf anthracnose.

Scattered tree mortality, discoloration and branch dieback were the most visible symptoms of BBD. This trend is expected to continue throughout the forest as trees attacked by this complex succumb.

Conifer mortality was mapped on both Ranger Districts. This mortality appeared to be confined to pine plantations. Individual scattered tree mortality and continuous pockets of mortality were observed.

District Rangers and other field-going personnel are reminded that they have the primary responsibility for on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office. Activity such as an unusually high number of moths present in the forest in early spring and late summer, may be a prelude to a heavy defoliation event by defoliators.

I personally would also like to extend my appreciation to Mike and Lauren for their valuable assistance in this survey. If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Rick Turcotte or Ann Steketee at (304) 285-1503.

Sincerely,

Robert Lueckel

Field Representative

Morgantown Field Office



Cc: District Ranger, Bradford RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Marienville RD w/enclosures
Robert White, Forest Silviculturist
Andrea Hille, Asst. Forest Silviculturist

DS/RMT/AKS

Figure 1. — Aerial Survey results and flight lines.

